

## Get Involved!

### Dining Out For Life

On Thursday, **April 29th** this international AIDS fundraiser will be celebrated in Boston for the first time, and CCA is the beneficiary. On this one special night, select restaurants will donate 25% of their sales to support HIV/AIDS service and prevention. So gather your friends now and plan to dine out at one of these participating restaurants. Order appetizers! Order dessert! It's all in a good cause. Learn more at [www.ccaa.org](http://www.ccaa.org)

### Participating Restaurants

Bambara, Cambridge  
Friendly Toast, Cambridge  
Ruby Room, Boston  
KO Prime, Boston  
Melting Pot, Boston  
Picco, Boston, South End  
DaVinci, Boston, South End  
Irie Jamaica Style, Dorchester  
88 Wharf, Milton  
Ghazal Fine Indian Cuisine,  
Jamaica Plain  
Arbri Café, Roslindale

### AIDS Walk

CCA is participating in the 25th annual AIDS Walk. Join our team on Sunday, **June 6th**, and help make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS! Contact Lena for more information at [lasmar@ccaa.org](mailto:lasmar@ccaa.org)

## A Word From John Gatto, Executive Director

We are excited to announce that Cambridge Cares About AIDS and AIDS Action Committee have made a joint decision to merge our organizations into a single agency. We are planning to start operations together July 1, 2010.

Our goals in the merger are to influence and improve the current HIV/AIDS service delivery system and to address the social and economic inequalities that drive the spread of the epidemic. Together, we expect to achieve improvements in three areas: effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

In the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, we built the service delivery system to reflect the nature of the disease, mainly developing crisis intervention services. These systems, put in place over twenty years ago, were not designed to provide long-term services. Today, people who are living with HIV and AIDS are living longer, healthier lives, and, as a result, we need the capacity to serve larger numbers of people, and in more sustained ways. Though the nature of the disease has developed,

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## Improving Services for People Living with HIV/AIDS

The main goal for this merger is to provide the best services to our clients with the resources available. Clients who are living with HIV and AIDS should see immediate benefits from the merger. Not only will they be able to access services both in Cambridge and in Jamaica Plain, shared information between the sites means that clients will have to go through only a single intake process in order to receive the services that both sites offer. This will not only increase efficiency, but also reduce the stress that clients may experience when retelling their story to multiple people. Shared information will also reduce the time case managers spend on paperwork, which will give them time to do more intensive work with clients. (Continued on Page 2: "Improving Services")

## Expanding Prevention and Education Programs

The Prevention and Education programs at CCA currently reach people in the Boston and Cambridge areas, which include many of the areas served by AIDS Action. CCA has a strong reputation in Cambridge, and will maintain this presence. Our services for homeless and street-involved youth, transgender women, and injection drug users are unique in this area and will continue. Combining our programs will eliminate overlap so that we can bring increased focus to addressing social and economic factors that influence the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We expect this to result in the expansion and improvement of these programs, including increased outreach efforts into surrounding areas such as Somerville and Malden.

## Join the Conversation

We would like to invite you to get involved in the discussion about the merger between Cambridge Cares About AIDS and AIDS Action Committee. We have set up a forum so that our community can play a role in shaping this new organization. CCA staff will also be available via the forum to answer questions that come up. Feel free to stop by and share a thought!

The forum is accessible through our webpage at [www.ccaa.org](http://www.ccaa.org).

### ***“Executive” Continued***

the service system has remained relatively unchanged. Therefore, we need to work together to redesign the system, and improve the effectiveness of our programs at providing services that reflect the needs of our community.

In order to effectively serve people living with and at risk for HIV, we also have to address the factors that put them at risk. We know that the spread of HIV is directly connected to issues such as sexual health and poverty, and our programs should reflect that. We believe that sustainability for our programs means that we should broaden our definitions of health and disease so that we also address the social and economic causes of health inequality. Although we will still be providing services directly to people living with HIV and AIDS, we plan to increase our efforts to alleviate these inequalities.

The combined administrative capacity created by this merger will also allow us provide services more efficiently. Eliminating duplication in facilities, operations, finance, human resources, and development areas will free up resources. Case managers will better support clients, and outreach teams will be able to strengthen their efforts to reach underserved populations.

I would like to thank all of our donors for the support and commitment you have shown to Cambridge Cares over the years. I look forward to the next chapter of HIV/AIDS care in our community, and hope you continue the journey with us.

### ***“Improving Services” Continued***

Another significant benefit to clients who receive case management services will be the expansion into Cambridge of the Volunteer Check-in Program, a program that utilizes community volunteers to telephone clients on a regular basis. This will allow staff to keep in touch with clients, and provides an opportunity to serve clients who may not be able to regularly access on-site services.

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